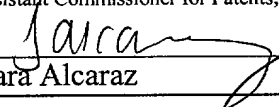


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Tamara Alcaraz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Anthony L. ALMADA

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/672,109

Filing Date: Herewith

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR
REDUCING SYMPATHOMIMETIC-
INDUCED SIDE EFFECTS

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the amendments herein prior to examination of the above-referenced application.

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 2, after the Title, please insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/672,109, filed September 27, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/156,262, filed September 27, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. This application also is a continuation of PCT/US00/26752, filed September 27, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/156,262, filed September 27, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5-8 and 14.

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising *Serenoa repens* or an extract thereof and a sympathomimetic agent, wherein the sympathomimetic agent is selected from the group consisting of synephrine and phenylpropanolamine, wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

9. (Amended) A composition comprising *Serenoa repens* or an extract thereof and a sympathomimetic agent, wherein the sympathomimetic agent is *Citrus aurantium* or other natural source of synephrine, wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

Please add new claims 20-22 as follows:

20. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the *Serenoa repens* or extract thereof has anti-adrenergic activity.

21. (New) The composition of claim 20, where the anti-adrenergic activity is inhibition of agonist binding to the alpha-adrenergic receptor.

22. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the composition is in pharmaceutically acceptable form.

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 and 14 have been cancelled, and claims 1 and 9 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter, solely to promote prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications. New claims 20-22 have been added. Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims appears, for example, on pages 7-8 and 11. Thus, claims 1-4, 9-13 and 15-22 are pending.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims, encaptioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

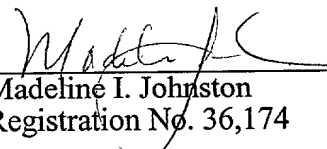
Applicants note that in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/672,109, filed September 27, 2000, the Examiner indicated that claims 10-13 and 15-19 were allowable. Accordingly, allowance of the pending claims as amended herein is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 374582000120.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 10, 2002

By:


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 2, after the Title, the following new paragraph has been inserted:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/672,109, filed September 27, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/156,262, filed September 27, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. This application also is a continuation of PCT/US00/26752, filed September 27, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/156,262, filed September 27, 1999, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

In the Claims:

Claims 5-8 and 14 are cancelled.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising *Serenoa repens* or an extract thereof and a sympathomimetic agent, wherein the sympathomimetic agent is selected from the group consisting of synephrine and phenylpropanolamine, wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

9. (Amended) [The] A composition [of claim 1] comprising *Serenoa repens* or an extract thereof and a sympathomimetic agent, wherein the sympathomimetic agent is [ma huang or other natural sources of ephedrine or related alkaloids, or] *Citrus aurantium* or other natural source of synephrine, wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

Claims 20-22 are new.